

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01300 111128Z

46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 /023 W

----- 025250

R 081858Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1601

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1300

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR GY OAS

SUBJECT: RECENT PRESS REPORTING ON OAS & CUBA SANCTIONS IN GUYANA

SUMMARY: ONLY TWO ITEMS OF COMMENT SINCE JULY 1: MIRROR CALLS RESULTS OF SANJOSE MEETING A "BLOW AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM", SINGH IN GRAPHIC SAYS SAN JOSE DECISION WAS "INEVITABLE" AND A "LANDMARK IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY". END SUMMARY.

PRESS COVERAGE IN GUYANA OF THE O.A.S. MEETING IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA AND OF THE ISSUE OF SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA HAS CONSISTED ALMOST ENTIRELY OF WIRE SERVICE REPORTS, USUALLY REUTERS, OCCASIONALLY AP. THE ONLY EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE O.A.S. OR THE SAN JOSE MEETING SINCE JULY ONE HAS COME IN TWO SEPARATE PIECES: AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 29 MIRROR, THE PAPER OF THE PEOPLE'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY, AND AN ARTICLE BY MR. HERMAN SINGH IN THE AUGUST 3 EDITION OF THE GUYANA GRAPHIC.

THE MIRROR EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "BLOWS AGAINST U.S. IMPERIALISM," DISCUSSES THE TURKISH TAKEOVER OF U.S. MILITARY FACILITIES AND WHAT IT CALLS "THE DECISION...OF THE RE-ENTRY OF CUBA IN THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES". ACCORDING TO THE MIRROR: "IN A MATTER OF MOMENTS, WE EXPECT TO HEAR THE NEWS THAT THE OAS HAS ADMITTED CUBA AS A MEMBER. THIS IS A CLEAR SIGN OF THE EVER-CHANGING SITUATION AND ALSO OF THE CHANGED POSITION OF U.S."

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IMPERIALISM TO THE QUESTION OF PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.... THE

U.S. RULING GLASS HAS, BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS CONTRADICTIONS, VACILLATED ON THE ISSUE OF THE LIFTING OF THE OAS BLOCKADE ON CUBA. NOW, APPARENTLY, IT HAS RECOGNIZED THAT LITTLE IS TO BE GAINED BY MAINTAINING ITS FORMER POSITION. THIS IS A GREAT STEP FORWARD..."

MR. SINGH'S COMMENT IN THE GRAPHIC, ENTITLED "CUBA MAINTAINS SILENCE ON THE SN JOSE DECISION", BEGINS: "THE DECISION BY THE OAS LAST WEEK TO LIFT THE COMPULSORY ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WAS AN INEVITABLE ONE IF ONE WERE TO ANALYSE RECENT TRENDS IN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM CAREFULLY". HE THEN ASKS RHETORICALLY IF THE U.S. COULD HAVE KEPT CUBA ISOLATED "IN THE LIGHT OF GROWING DEMANDS BY HER OTHER PARTNERS THAT CUBA SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK INTO THE INTERAMERICAN CLUB?" HE ANSWERS: "I THINK THAT THE U.S. HAD STARTED TO REALIZE THAT IT WAS POINTLESS KEEPING OUT CUBA FOREVER". HE NOTES SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH IN HOUSTON IN MARCH ON U.S. - LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND QUOTES SEVERAL LINES FROM KISSINGER'S REMARKS ON CUBA, WHICH HE SAYS WERE "TAKEN THEN TO MEAN A CHANGE OF HEART TOWARDS THE CASTRO REGIME".

NOTING THAT MEXICO, A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE OAS, DID NOT BREAK RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MR. SINGH SAYS, "THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE PROVEN THE POSITION MEXICO TOOK THEN AS CORRECT". HE CONTINUES: "THE SAN JOSE MEETING LAST WEEK HAS NOW ENDED THE LONG STRUGGLE WAGED WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE HEMISPHERE FOR AN END TO THE ISOLATION OF CUBA". NOW, HE SAYS, "THE QUESTION IS WHETHER CUBA WILL BE PREPARED TO WORK WITH THE OAS, AS IT IS CONSTITUTED AT PRESENT?" HE RECALLS CASTRO'S SCORN OF THE OAS, AND NOTES CUBA'S DISAGREEMENTS WITH BRAZIL AND THE MILITARY REGIME IN CHILE. HE REVIEWS RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND CARICOM MEMBERS, INCLUDING GUYANA. HIS CLOSING COMMENT IS: "THE SN JOSE DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WILL BE REGARDED AS ANOTHER LANDMARK IN LATIN AMERICAN HISTORY, SHOULD SEE A REGENERATION OF CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE OTHER HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES".

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SANCTIONS, FOREIGN TRADE, IMPERIALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GEORGE01300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750276-0692
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750871/aaaackdj.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECENT PRESS REPORTING ON OAS & CUBA SANCTIONS IN GUYANA SUMMARY: ONLY TWO ITEMS OF COMMENT SINCE JULY 1:
MIRROR CALLS
TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU, US, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006